REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OFFICERS

OF THE

Town of Northfield.

1898.

ANNUAL REPORT

—OF THE—

SELECTMEN,

Overseers of Poor and Assessors,

—OF THE—

Town of Northfield,

—TOGETHER WITH—

Reports of the School Committee, Treasurer, Collector, Fire Engineers, Library Trustees and Librarian,

—FOR THE—

Year Ending February 10th, 1898.

GARDNER, MASS.:
PRINTED BY THE GARDNER NEWS CO.,
1898.

Report of the Selectmen.

To the Citizens of Northfield:

We herewith submit for your consideration our report for the year ending February 10, 1898. We regret to be obliged to report expenditures which we have been obliged to meet exceeding appropriations in nearly every every department. Quite a number of old bills which were not rendered previous to closing accounts last year have been paid and nearly all bills against the town up to date as far as we know, have been settled. We have taken pains to have outstanding bills rendered and orders drawn so we could show the financial status of the town very closely.

Our Poor have caused an increased expenditure, especially in families where death has occurred, which the report shows. Contingent expenses have been about the same as last year, a little lower. The heavy rain storms after our roads had been repaired, caused many washouts especiallly on the Warwick road and the Four-Mile brook which caused a large expenditure in bridges and filling, being the cause of a largely overdrawn account.

In Cemetery expenditures we have overdrawn a small sum. In this we could have kept within the appropriation by leaving a part of the fence at the Center unpainted or by not putting on but one coat. We thought best to do it well and in our judgment for the best interest of the town. The cemeteries are in fairly good condition now.

Union Hall appropriation was also exceeded. After making the necessary repairs to hall we thought best to place new windows in the building which caused the expenditure of $11.39 in excess of the appropriation. The appearance and comfort of the building is greatly improved thereby.

H. C. HOLTON,
S. C. HOLTON,
E. C. FIELD,
Selectmen of Northfield.

Town Warrant.

FRANKLIN, ss:

To Either of the Constables of the Town of Northfield, County Aforesaid—Greeting:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Northfield qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet in the Town Hall in said Northfield, on Monday, March 7th, 1898, at 9 o'clock A. M., then and there to act on the following articles:

Article 1. To choose a Moderator to preside at said meeting.

Article 2. To hear the reports of the several Town Officers and Outstanding Committees, or act thereon.

Article 3. To choose all necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year; also to bring in their ballots Yes or No in answer to the following question: "Shall licenses be granted for the sale of intoxicating liquors in this town?"

Article 4. To see if the town will accept of the Jury List, as revised, or act thereon.

Article 5. To see what action the town will take in regard to discount or interest on taxes, or act thereon.

Article 6. To see if the town will authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectmen, to make temporary loans, or act thereon.

Article 7. To see if the town will appropriate and raise a sum of money for Memorial Day, or act thereon.

Article 8. To see if the town will appropriate and raise a sum of money for the care and improvement of the Cemeteries, and a Committee be chosen to expend the same, or act thereon.

Article 9. To see if the town will adopt the provisions of Chapter 264 of the Acts of 1890, relative to Cemetery Commissioners, and choose three Commissioners in conformity to said acts, or act thereon.

Article 10. To see if the town will appropriate and raise the sum of forty dollars to assist the Northfield Hook and Ladder Company, or act thereon.

Article 11. To see if the town will appropriate and raise one hundred dollars to grade the road leading from the railroad bridge north to Dickenson Hall, on the first hill from the bridge.

Article 12. To see if the town will appropriate and raise two hundred dollars to widen the road at the foot of, and grade "Mill Brook Hill," so called, or act thereon.

Article 13. To see if the town will appropriate and raise one hundred and fifty dollars towards the building of a suitable graded sidewalk six feet wide on the west side of Highland avenue, between the streets known as Holton street and Moody street, or act thereon.

Article 14. To see if the town will appropriate and raise a sum of money to be applied on the town debt, or act thereon.

Article 15. To see if the town will appropriate and raise a sum of money to raise and put an extension on rear of the Town Hall, or act thereon.

Article 16. To raise such sums of money as shall be necessary to defray town charges for the ensuing year.

Article 17. To see if the town will increase the number of Library Trustees to six, or act thereon.

Article 18. To see if the town will appropriate and raise a sum of money for survey of State road, or act thereon.

And you are directed to serve this Warrant, by posting up attested copies thereof, in five public places in town, nine days at least before the day appointed for said meeting, one of which shall be the Postoffice at Northfield, one the Postoffice at East Northfield, one the Postoffice at West Northfield, one the Postoffice at Northfield Farms,

and one the schoolhouse in District No. 6. Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this the seventeenth day of February, in the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-eight.

HENRY C. HOLTON,
SAMUEL C. HOLTON,
ERNEST C. FIELD,
Selectmen of Northfield.

Jury List for 1898.

Edward B. Murdock,
Francis J. Stockbridge,
Ambert G. Moody,
John H. Bolton,
Arthur W. Proctor,
Fred Z. Allen,
Clarence A. Randall,
Henry W. Montague,
Julius M. Clapp,
Frank B. Holton,
Fred C. Britton,
Charles L. Robbins,
Simon S. Fisher,
Frank E. Stimpson,
Joseph A. Ross,
Arnold H. Holton,

John H. Eames,
Alonzo A. Newton,
Charles L. Gilbert,
Geo. W. Piper,
Rufus K. Caldwell,
Clinton A. Ware,
Arthur S. Atwood,
Frank E. Aldrich,
George A. Stearns,
Osgood L. Leach,
Oscar F. Durkee,
Samuel C. Holton,
Fred B. Caldwell,
Wesley Mann,
Clifford I. Holton.

Assessors' Report.

Valuation of real estate,	$825,380 00
Valuation of personal estate,	92,835 00
Total valuation May 1, 1897,	$918,215 00
Number of polls,	516
persons assessed,	748
persons assessed on property,	595
persons assessed for poll tax only,	153
resident taxpayers,	471
non-resident taxpayers,	146
horses assessed,	574
cows assessed,	766
sheep assessed,	168
neat cattle assessed,	290
swine assessed,	125
dwellings assessed,	426
acres of land assessed,	19,730½

ASSESSMENT FOR 1897.

State tax,	$ 682 50
County tax,	1,670 85
	$2,353 35

TOWN APPROPRIATIONS FOR 1897.

Schools in general,	$2,800 00
repairs on buildings,	300 00
text books and supplies,	300 00
conveyance,	300 00
superintendent,	260 00
	$3,960 00

Contingent and support of poor,	$3,000 00
Highways, general repairs,	2,000 00
Building road known as Dickinson street,	125 00
Building road known as Glenwood avenue,	150 00
Cemeteries in general,	175 00
Library,	200 00
Memorial Day,	50 00
Repairs to Union Hall,	75 00
Overlay,	422 67
	$10,157 67

Raised on polls,	$1,032 00	
" " personal estate,	1,161 12	
" " real estate,	10,317 90	
		$12,511 02

Taxes on each poll, $2.00.
Rate per $1000, $12.50.

HENRY C. HOLTON,
SAMUEL C. HOLTON,
ERNEST C. FIELD.
} *Assessors of Northfield.*

List of Abatements.

M. T. Moore, abatement of taxes,	1895,	
H. S. Stone,	"	$ 2 00
John Steer,	"	2 00
John Skrocki,	"	2 00
Hugh Sutherland,	"	2 00
James Barry,	"	2 00
Warren M. Aldrich,	1896,	2 00
W. G. Atkinson,	"	2 00
Edgar E. Barrett,	"	2 00
Charles W. Costello,	"	2 00
Terrence Coughlin, 2nd,	"	2 00
Maurice Cunningham,	"	2 00
Earl Chapin,	"	2 00
John Davis,	"	2 00
Daniel Delaney,	"	2 00
Daniel Diggins,	"	2 00
George Fournier,	"	2 00
Fred W. Fowler,	"	2 00
Daniel Hardy,	"	2 00
R. A. Harris,	"	2 00
Louis Haskell,	"	2 00
Fayette C. Howard,	"	2 00
Charles Huber,	"	2 00
Charles Hart,	"	2 00
Charles X. James,	"	10 29
Charles Ledger,	"	2 57
Joseph Loskoski,	"	2 00
——McDonald,	"	2 00
Mrs. Frances Mead,	"	2 84

Joseph Nicarojns,	"	2 00
William O'Dell,	"	2 00
Antone Podelinski,	"	2 00
Peter Poleskie,	"	2 00
Milard V. Stancliff,	"	3 82
Henry C. Starks,	"	2 75
Walter M. Stratton,	"	2 00
Levi Thornton,	"	2 00
Leroy E. Webster,	"	2 00
Harry C. Wentworth,	"	2 00
Frank Williamson,	"	2 00
Antone Yamamska,	"	2 00
Dwight Aldrich,	"	2 00
Geo. D. Dresser,	"	2 00
Charles Hunt,	"	2 00
Patrick Piggott,	"	2 00
John Selich,	"	2 00
Walter C. Sherman,	"	2 00
Herbert Stebbins,	"	2 00
B. M. Louram,	"	2 00
Mrs. Aaron Morgan,	"	85
Hugh Sutherland,	"	2 00
Mt. Hermon Boys' School,	"	7 10
		$118 22

Report of Overseers of Poor.

DWIGHT COOK AND FAMILY :		
Town of Montague, aid rendered,		$152 81
MRS. JAMES O'BRIEN :		
Town of Watertown, aid rendered to July 1, 1897,		33 05
WATSON FAMILY :		
Town of Watertown, aid rendered to Jan. 1, 1898,		22 00
MRS. MARY FITZGERALD :		
City of Boston, aid rendered to Jan., 1897,		10 00
A. H. RICHARDS :		
G. Q. A. Bryant, Winchendon, goods furnished,	13 69	
J. G. Henry, M. D., Winchendon, medical services,	7 00	
Town of Royalston, aid rendered,	71 20	
Town of Phillipston, aid rendered,	44 00	
		135 89
FRED W. WHITNEY :		
City of Lowell, aid rendered to Jan. 1, 1898,		28 00
HARRISON B. ALLEN :		
Town of Warwick, aid rendered to Feb. 28, 1897,		18 50
JOHANNA DRISCOLL :		
A. W. Proctor, goods furnished,	7 31	
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	11 25	
Jerry Twine, board to Jan. 1, 1898,	74 78	
		93 34

COLEMAN SMITH:		
Northampton Lunatic Hospital,		169 46
CHARLES PARKER:		
Massachusetts State Farm,		109 20
JOHN QUINLAN:		
Massachusetts State Farm,		109 20
ALVA KIMPLIN'S FAMILY:		
Town of Bernardston, 1896 and 1897,		59 70
MRS. CHAUNCEY KIMPLIN:		
Geo. A. Stevens, wood,	3 00	
Thos. Quinlan, wood,	15 75	
Weekly aid,	60 00	
		78 75
MRS. MARY MATTOON:		
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	4 00	
Weekly aid,	72 00	
		76 00
EDW. J. FITZGERALD, (Boston.)		
Weekly aid,		40 00
EDDIE BADGER:		
Mrs. Lizzie Burnham, aid,		2 00
MRS. JOHN PIESIA AND CHILDREN:		
Aid,		5 00
GARDNER COLLER:		
Weekly aid, 26 weeks, $2 per week, to Jan. 30, 1898,		52 00
MRS. ELECTA STRATTON, (Westboro)		
Mrs. J. E. Lincoln, aid to Feb. 1st, 1898,		70 00
MRS. GEO. DOOLITTLE AND CHILDREN:		
Weekly aid rendered,		104 00
J. L. MAY:		
S. P. Woodbury, M. D., medical services,	30 90	
E. W. Lull, nursing,	27 00	
F. A. Hilliard, boarding E. W. Lull,	6 00	
H. E. Bond, casket and box,	12 00	
C. E. Leach, watching body,	1 00	
E. Gaines, " "	1 00	

W. S. Osgood, notifying relatives of death,	50	
Rev. D. A. Hudson, attending funeral,	2 00	
A. W. Procter, telephone charges,	30	
		80 70
CHARLES BRIGGS:		
Thomas Quinlan, 1 cord wood,	4 00	
H. E. Bond & Co., casket, robe and box,	15 00	
A. W. Procter, goods furnished,	5 50	
H. H. Mason, digging grave,	2 50	
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	22 70	
S. C. Holton, aid,	2 25	
		51 95
JAMES ARLIN'S FAMILY:		
Hugh Sutherland, house rent,	7 50	
C. B. Morrill, goods furnished,	5 00	
		12 50
JONATHAN LYMAN:		
Byron Gillette, sawing and splitting wood,	2 25	
G. A. Stearns, 1½ cords wood,	3 75	
T. F. Reed, washings and care of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman,	23 50	
O. H. Doolittle, board and care of Mr. and Mrs. Lyman,	112 75	
H. E. Bond & Co., casket and box,	12 00	
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	29 75	
H. H. Mason, digging grave,	2 50	
A. W. Procter goods furnished,	11 69	
		198 19
GAD LYMAN:		
G. C. Irish, meat furnished 1896,	1 70	
A. W. Procter, goods furnished,	3 20	
		4 90
CHARLES LORD:		
T. F. Reed, board to Jan. 1,	78 00	
A. W. Procter, goods furnished,	2 00	
		80 00
MRS. MARY WATTON,		
Mrs. Lucinda Hart, board,	20 46	
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	1 75	
A W. Procter, goods furnished,	1 01	
		23 22

LYDIA PACKARD AND CHILD:		
H. S. Ames, legal advice, 1896,	10 00	
O. H. Doolittle, 16 weeks' board,	72 00	
S. C. Holton, moving to O. H. Doolittle's,	75	
S. C. Holton, car fares to Orange,	44	
		83 19
ASA KENISTON:		
A. W. Proctor, goods furnished,		$21 81
WILLIAM DALE:		
R. C. Ward, M. D., medical services,	$ 6 00	
Weekly aid,	63 75	
		69 75
JOHN R. CASEY:		
Care of 105 tramps,		22 80
S. C. HOLTON:		
Care of tramp,		26
L. WEBSTER:		
A. W. Proctor, goods furnished,		3 07
		$2,021 23

CR.

By amount due from Town of Ashby, account Asa Keniston,	$ 7 68	
By amount received from Thomas Quinlan, account John Quinlan, for year 1897,	109 20	
By amount due from State of Massachusetts, account Mrs. John Presia,	5 00	
		$121 88
Total expense of Poor,		$1,899 35

HENRY C. HOLTON,
SAMUEL C. HOLTON,
ERNEST C. FIELD,
Overseers of Poor of Northfield.

Contingent Expenses.

H. C. Holton, services as selectman, 1896,	$112 50	
H. C. Holton, services as road commissioner,	59 37	
		171 87
C. C. Stearns, services as selectman, 1896,		138 75
H. H. Nash, services as selectman, 1896,		71 00
A. G. Moody, services as auditor, 1896,		2 50
Fred C. Britton, services as auditor, 1896,		2 50
F. J. Stockbridge, services as registrar,		11 25
C. A. Ware, services as registrar,		11 25
T. R. Callender, services as registrar,		11 25
E. S. Bardwell, services as school committee,	5 00	
E. S. Bardwell, car fares and telegrams,	3 15	
		8 15
L. R. Smith, services as school committee,	$10 00	
L. R. Smith, repairs,	2 00	
		12 00
Nellie M. Wood, services as school committee,	$17 75	
Nellie M. Wood, postage,	75	
		18 50
C. C. Stearns, services as election officer,		2 50
C. L. Robbins, services as election officer,		2 50
N. D. Alexander, services as election officer, 1896 and 1897,		5 00
O. L. Leach, services as election officer, 1896 and 1897,		5 00
C. H. Green, services as election officer, 1896 and 1897,		5 00
T. E. Heald, services as cattle inspector to May 1, 1897,		62 30

R. C. Ward, services as cattle inspector to Feb. 10, 1898,		126 55
M. T. Moore, collector, 1896,	$76 00	
constable, 1896,	15 00	
election officer, 1896,	2 50	
posting town warrants, 1896,	6 00	
		99 50
C. C. Stearns, wrappers and mailing reports,		6 00
C. V. R. R. Co., tolls, 1896,		2 08
Fred Hallett & Co., printing Town reports,		38 40
Samuel Ward & Co., mortgage record book,		17 00
Geo. W Southworth, order and listing blanks,		7 25
Town of Gill, one-half expense of boat for Morgan's Ferry,		150 00
J. C. Delvy, boat for Munn's Ferry,		22 00
C. H. Webster, trustee fees,		1 00
insurance policy,		10 50
J. L. Fairbanks, pauper register,		3 50
Lombard & Keefe, repairs to hall sink,		60
J. W. Black, watching fire, account E. H. Chamberlain,		2 00
C. H. Webster, watching fire, account E. H. Chamberlain,		2 00
E. A. Hall & Co., collector's books and stationery,		4 65
W. H. Holton, repairing Town clock,		1 50
M. T. Moore, posting town warrants, March,		6 00
Geo. A. Stearns, wood for Town Hall,		2 75
E. C. Fowler, officer's fees,		32 33
W. M. Smead, officer's fees,		62 93
G. H. Johnson, officer's fees,		7 79
C. S. Richardson, officer's fees,		1 25
E. J. Pratt, officer's fees,		25 16
F. W. Doane, coal for Town Hall,		16 50
American Express Co., express charges,		6 40
H. C. Holton, legal advice,	2 00	
postage,	90	
Ferrages,	8 50	
		11 40
W. H. Browning, order of abatement, 1896,		3 55
Chas. Pomeroy, estate, abatement account Perry farm,		3 90
E. C. Field, postage and car fares to Orange,		1 76
S. C. Holton, postage, car fares, tolls and stationery,		2 60
A. W. Procter, oil, chimneys, stationery and tramp orders,		24 06

H. H. Mason, driving hearse,	32 50	
care of clock,	15 00	
" library,	4 00	
" hall,	58 00	
special police,	4 00	
returning 28 deaths,	7 00	
		120 50
W. J. Wright, services as town clerk and treasurer,	205 10	
paid doctors for return of births and deaths,	8 50	
stamps and stationery,	15 05	
		228 65
M. T. Moore, collector, abatement taxes 1895-96,		118 22
C. V. R. R. Co., tolls, 1897,		2 50
Town of Gill, ½ expense of Morgan's Ferry,		25 83
Thos. Quinlan, wood for town hall, 1896,		11 50
F. E. Aldrich, slating school house, district No. 4,		72 50
C. L. Cook, book for town officers,		50
C. H. Webster, insurance policy on library,		12 00
Samuel Ward & Co., book for town officers,		2 50
Conant & Conant, legal advice,		1 00
F. E. Stimpson, damages to team on gulf road, 1896,		5 00
Total,		$1844 93
Expense of poor,	$1899 35	
Contingent,	1844 93	
		$3744 28
Appropriations, poor and contingent,	3000 00	
Received from court fines,	100 00	
" " town of Gill, account boat,	11 00	
		$3111 00
Overdrawn,		633 28

MILITARY AND STATE AID.

Charles X. Janes, military aid,	$72 00
Daniel Burnham, state aid,	24 00

Thomas H. Hart, state aid,	48 00
Roswell Stratton, state aid,	48 00
Gardner Coller, state aid,	48 00
William Strange, state aid,	48 00
	$288 00

REPAIRS TO UNION HALL.

C. V. R. R. Co., freight charges on lime,	$ 54
O. L. Leach, lathing,	3 50
C. A. Whittaker, ½ days labor,	75
E. C. Field, 5½ days labor,	8 25
C. L. Gilbert, 1 7-10 days labor,	2 55
Frank H. Montague, drawing sand,	60
Robbins & Cowles, 14 lbs hair,	52
C. A. Moulton, lath and sheathing,	6 62
C. V. R. R. Co., freight charges on windows,	1 13
M. H. Clapp, painting,	7 50
W. C. Manchester, carpenter labor,	8 06
S. Weatherhead, mason tender and rope block,	1 00
F. I. Webster, 2 lbs. lime,	3 00
T. Hamilton, mason work,	16 40
A. W. Proctor, paint stock and nails,	5 56
Jackson & Newton, 11 windows,	15 07
J. F. Bartlett, paper and hanging same,	9 73
	$90 78

Appropriation,	$75 00	
Old windows sold,	4 40	
	$79 40	
Overdrawn,	11 38	

CEMETERIES.

Arad Stratton, mowing cemetery at Farms,	$3 60
A. W. Proctor, paint stock, cemetery at Farms, 1896,	3 00
S. S. Fisher, mowing cemetery on Mountain,	1 50

H. C. Holton, " "	at West Northfield,	2 00
B. Morrison, " "	in district No. 7,	2 00
Amos Bigelow " "	at Centre,	12 50
Frank Perould, " "	"	9 00
S. K. Sawyer, " "	"	2 00
H. H. Mason, labor, "	"	25 60
Chas. Gilette, " "	"	6 75
F. Perold, " "	"	5 70
C. W. Slate, " "	"	4 35
Geo. H. Slate, " "	"	8 85
A. W. Proctor, paint stock,	"	36 65
F. H. Turner, 200 lbs. whiting,	"	5 00
F. H. Turner, painting fence,	"	37 50
James Broderich, " "	"	33 75
		$199 75

Appropration,	$175 00.
Overdrawn,	24 75.

Highways.

L. C. Miller,	Labor,	$ 4 65
W. F. Field,	"	14 10
Elson E. Howes,	"	9 90
W. C. Manchester,	"	7 50
F. W. Hilliard,	"	5 40
E. B. Stratton,	"	6 75
James Paine,	"	13 40
A. Whittaker,	"	1 72
C. A. Whittaker,	"	3 15
S. G. Titus,	"	6 00
Wallace Morgan,	"	14 62
G. F. Alexander,	"	1 50
C. L. Gilbert,	"	2 85
E. Gains,	"	11 60
A. Stratton,	"	16 42
E. A. Nash,	"	7 58
Ira H. Ewers,	"	4 05
H. F. Field's man,	"	1 95
G. B. Kenney,	"	13 35
F. H. Simonds,	"	8 85
F. H. Montague,	"	1 50
I. Murdock,	"	2 62
Geo. Webster,	"	3 00
Lyman Smith,	"	1 35
F. W. Ruggles,	"	230 62
S. Ruggles,	"	11 25
O. F. Durkee,	"	42 10
H. F. Hall,	"	15 00
Northfield Seminary,	"	125 23

John R. Casey and man,	"	510 80
F. W. Doane,	"	43 13
J. A. Holland,	"	88 64
S. S. Fisher,	"	14 63
Wm. Fellows,	"	15 75
H. Johnson,	"	1 13
Geo. W. Piper and others,	"	185 52
D. L. Preston and others,	"	78 72
H. D. Field,	"	126 05
R. E. Long,	"	110 75
Geo. Stearns,	"	34 65
Thomas Quinlan, 1896,	"	115 71
Thomas Quinlan, 1897,	"	270 15
Wm. Strange,	"	3 92
James Crelan,	"	12 30
Warren Hewett,	"	9 45
W. F. Grace,	"	22 73
H. T. Hart,	"	16 20
Lewis Fowler,	"	65 80
F. V. Wood,	"	2 25
G. R. Clough	"	21 70
John Grace,	"	69 00
G. H. Baldwin,	"	9 90
F. L. King,	"	13 65
C. R. Pomeroy,	"	36 45
G. H. Lyman,	"	5 10
H. C. Holton's man and team,	"	97 30
C. I. Holton,	"	28 05
J. H. Dalton,	"	66 50
Arnold H. Holton,	"	6 90
F. E. Aldrich,	"	156 55
Geo. H. Slate,	"	27 90
C. W. Slate,	"	51 65
O. E. Slate,	"	3 30
M. T. Moore,	"	50
J. Arlin,	"	10 75
Wesley Mann,	"	1 20
L. Fisher,	"	4 65
William Sullivan,	"	6 00

Robert Edwards,	"	6 00
John Reardon,	"	6 00
Amos Bigelow,	"	3 25
Charles Strange,	"	6 75
William Aldrich,	"	6 75
R. Philips,	"	5 85
E. M. Kimplin,	"	12 15
Wright Arlin,	"	14 25
William Bain,	"	5 09
C. P. Britton,	"	70
Gardner Coller,	"	1 75
F. E. Stimpson, 1896,	"	5 25
Thos. McHugh,	"	15 40
G. W. Cummings,	"	14 25
Geo. W. Preston,	"	3 75
O. S. Davis,	"	7 00
Chas. Gillette,	"	4 50
Fred Davis,	"	4 50
Frank Perould,	"	1 50
Charles Aldrich,	"	8 70
Jason Bump,	"	5 25
C. A. Parker,	"	4 75
Byron Gillette,	"	3 00
William Burrows,	"	9 45
James Campbell,	"	1 20
Willie W. Slate,	"	1 35
Thomas Metcalf's men,	"	2 70
Hartwell Doolittle,	"	3 00
F. H. Turner,	"	4 00
Frank B. Holton,	"	3 75
G. E. Murdock,	"	4 95
Fred E. Clough,	"	11 40
		$3,121 53

WATER RENTS.

M. E. Dickenson, 1897,	$ 5 00
Northfield Aqueduct Co., 1897,	10 00

Joseph A. Ross, 1897,	3 00
W. N. Smith, 1897,	5 00
E. C. Field,	5 00
E. W. Smith,	5 00
	$33 00

MATERIAL FOR HIGHWAYS.

H. C. Holton, bridge stringers,		5 50
C. P. Britton, plank,		19 60
Ansel Coller, plank,		8 32
Northfield Cemetery, pipes,		13 50
M. H. Alkins, pipes, 1896,		40 13
Geo. Tyler & Co., casting for scraper,		16 50
Aldrich & Long, plank,		15 68
D. McD. Ross, repairing scraper,		2 00
James W. Black, " " and material,		8 70
K. E. Nims, " "		3 50
Geo. Tyler & Co., points for scraper,		4 00
F. V. Doolittle, plank,		18 37
C. Pomeroy estate, use of plow, 1896-97,		1 25
Pickard & Walker, powder,		30
S. Ruggles, railings and posts,		4 20
E. C. Field, 28 loads abutment and covering stone,		7 50
W. D. Stevens, sections for scraper,		2 00
A. W. Proctor, spikes,		11 48
Fred Turner, paint stock for bridge,		3 00
F. H. Turner, painting guide boards,		8 50
Frank B. Holton, stone,		5 00
C. V. R. R. Co., freight charges on supplies,		25
American Express Co, express charges on supplies,		1 50
W. L. Davis, sharpening drills, 1896,		3 10
C. L. Gilbert, stringers for bridge,		8 00
Thomas Quinlan, plank and timber, 1896,		19 37
		$231 25
Highways in general,	$2829 47	
Dickenson street construction,	137 11	
Glenwood avenue,	154 95	

Water rents,	33 00	
Material,	231 25	
		$3385 78
Appropriation, highways,	$2000 00	
" Dickinson street,	125 00	
" Glenwood avenue,	150 00	
		$2275 00
Overdrawn,		$1110 78

This report includes $184.31, bills of previous years, and all bills now due will not exceed $30.00

Selectmen's Financial Report.

DR.

Orders issued on Town Treasurer since Feb. 10, 1897,		$15,347 91

CR.

Paid for poor,	$2,021 23	
contingent,	1,844 93	
cemeteries,	199 75	
Union Hall,	90 78	
highways,	3,060 72	
water rents,	33 00	
building Dickinson street,	137 11	
building Glenwood avenue,	154 95	
schools,	5,202 09	
library appropriation,	200 00	
Memorial Day appropriation,	50 00	
State tax,	682 50	
county tax,	1,670 85	
		$15,347 91

HENRY C. HOLTON,
SAMUEL C. HOLTON,
ERNEST C. FIELD,
Selectmen of Northfield.

Financial Condition of the Town, Feb. 10, 1898.

LIABILITIES.		
Greenfield Savings Bank,	$2,100 00	
H. C. Holton, selectman,	80 00	
H. C. Holton, commissioner,	103 25	
S. C. Holton, selectman,	106 86	
E. C. Field, selectman,	121 13	
L. R. Smith, school committee,	13 75	
M. T. Moore, constable and collector,	118 50	
Due M. T. Moore, collector account, discount,	345 04	
Cash in hand to treasurer, credit Thomas Quinlan,	55 59	
Estimated expense of poor, Feb. 10, 1898,	277 40	
Estimated expense of highways, Feb. 15, 1898,	30 00	
Outstanding orders, 1893, not paid,	5 44	
Outstanding orders, 1898, not paid,	825 30	
		$4,182 26
ASSETS.		
Cash in hands of treasurer,	$3,340 75	
Cash in hands of library trustees,	50 15	
Income, surplus revenue uncollected,	64 00	
Due from Town of Warwick, account of J. H. Wise,	83 50	
Due from state, account of Mrs John Presea,	5 00	
Due from state, account of inspector, estimate,	40 00	
Due from state, account of state and military aid,	288 00	
Due from state, account of superintendent of schools,	173 00	
Due from Town of Ashby, account of Asa Keniston,	7 68	
Due from M. T. Moore, collector, account of 1896,	200 00	
Due from M. T. Moore, collector, account of 1897,	4,140 91	
Total,		$8,392 99
Balance in favor of town,		$4,210 73

HENRY C. HOLTON,
SAMUEL C. HOLTON,
ERNEST C. FIELD,
} *Selectmen of Northfield.*

Treasurer's Report.

W. J. Wright in Account with Town of Northfield.

	Dr.	Cr.
To balance from previous account,	$3,688 15	
cash from New Salem account, Emery White,	3 00	
F. V. Wood, billiard license,	2 00	
State Treasurer, account corporation tax,	17 04	
H. E. Waterman, peddler's license,	6 00	
A. W. Adams, auctioneer's license,	2 00	
Joshua Simpkins Co., license,	2 00	
State Treasurer, inspection animals,	143 55	
State Treasurer, account Mary Pierson,	125 00	
William J. Allen, fines,	100 00	
R. K. Caldwell, auctioneer's license,	2 00	
State Treasurer, account superintendent schools,	173 00	
account tramps,	6 00	
State Treasurer, account corporation tax,	1,543 75	
State Treasurer, account National Bank tax,	250 39	
State Treasurer, account Military aid,	36 00	
State Treasurer, account State aid,	204 00	
sale of apples at the Farms,	1 50	
dog fund returned,	194 60	
Town of Gill, account small boat,	11 00	
income Massachusetts school fund,	345 03	
Town of Ashby, account A. Keniston,	14 13	

Franklin County National Bank, account loans,	3,445 69	
H. H. Mason, rent Town Hall,	90 00	
E. C. Field, rent Union Hall,	2 00	
E. C. Field, old windows, Union hall,	4 40	
M.T.Moore,collector account,'95 tax,	330 20	
" " " " '96 "	3636 47	
" " " " '97 "	8370 11	
" " " " '94 " settled,	52 49	
M. T. Mooie, collector account, '95 tax settled,	75 00	
Thomas Quinlan, on account of John Quinlan,	365 93	
By cash paid temporary loans		5000 00
state treasurer,		19
state and military aid,		288 00
Greenfield savings bank interest on note,		90 88
selectmen's orders,		14522 61
in hands of treasurer,		3340 75
	$23,242 43	$23,242 43

W. J. WRIGHT, Treasurer.

Northfield, Mass., Feb. 10, 1898.

REPORT OF ELISHA ALEXANDER FUND.

Amount in bank, Jan 1, 1897,	$1087 04	
Interest to Jan. 1, 1898,	43 90	
		$1130 94
Drawn from bank Jan. 6, 1898, and paid as follows:		
Mrs. Hannah Stevens,	$10 00	
Gad Lyman,	10 00	
Emma Hilliard,	5 00	
Mrs. Fayette Howard,	10 00	
Theodosia Sprague,	5 00	
		40 00
		$1090 94

Collector's Report.

DR.

Amount committed for collectors, 1897,		12511 02

CR.

Paid Town Treasurer,	$8370 11	
Discounts due collector,	345 04	
Balance due Town,	3795 87	
		$12,511 02

MERRILL T. MOORE, *Collector.*

February 10, 1898.

Report of the School Committee.

To the Citizens of the Town of Northfield:

The School Committee herewith present their annual report for your consideration.

The Committee feel that the results of three years' experience have fully justified all anticipations of the benefits of professional supervision. The standard of teaching has been raised. The schools have been supplied with better text books and more varied materials. The school buildings and outhouses have been more closely looked after. There has been a better attendance and parents have taken a greater interest in the schools. The schools have been more closely graded, and, the yearly work of each grade being clearly mapped out, progress has been more steady and uniform. Music, drawing, nature study and other new subjects have been introduced, with evident advantage to our schools. Interesting work of a great variety and suited to the age and capacity of each child is producing habits of neatness, order, industry and systematic and earnest effort. Good habits are the foundation of character, good citizenship and success in life.

Your Committee are able to report that all bills have been paid and that there still remains a balance of $69.31 to the credit of the school department. The closest economy and some sacrifices have been necessary to reach this result.

The school buildings are in good condition. The best slate blackboards have been placed in all the rooms at Nos. 1, 2 and 4. This is a permanent improvement of great value to the schools. New windows have also been provided for No. 4. This school room is now one of the pleasantest and most attractive in the town.

CALENDAR FOR 1898-99.

Spring term,	12 weeks,	begins March 28,	closes June 17.
Fall term,	12 weeks,	begins Aug. 29,	closes Nov. 18.
Winter term,	12 weeks,	begins Nov. 28,	closes Feb. 24.

with a recess from Dec. 23 to January 2.

We recommend for the coming year: For schools, $2,800; for books and supplies, $300; for conveyance of pupils, $300; for the salary of superintendent, $260.

L. R. SMITH,
E. S. BARDWELL,
NELLIE M. WOOD,
} *School Committee.*

Financial School Report

FOR YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 25, 1898.

APPROPRIATIONS AND RECEIPTS.

In general,	$2800 00
Repairs,	300 00
Text-books and supplies,	300 00
Conveyence,	300 00
Superintendent,	260 00
Massachusetts school fund,	345 03
Income surplus revenue,	64 00
Dog fund,	194 60
State aid for supervision,	173 00
Unexpended balance Feb. 10, 1897,	534 77
	$5271 40

EXPENDITURES.

SALARY OF TEACHERS.

J. E. Armes,	$ 12 00
Grace Lindsey,	132 00
J. A. Nolon, No. 1,	228 00
Edna White,	432 00
Lucy W. Sanderson,	360 00
Mary I. Sanderson,	24 00
Annie Thompson,	93 00
Lucy Ladd Brown,	120 00
Alice M. Dwight,	120 00
Jessie A. Stone,	72 00
Jennie M. Ramsey, No. 3,	72 00
Josephine M. Briggs,	54 00
Lottie E. Evans,	300 00

Beatrice McGlaflin,	144 00
Jennie M. Ramsey,	66 00
Jannett B. Fuller,	96 00
Edith A. Stevens,	54 00
Joseph Nolon, No. 7,	84 00
Margaret Whitty,	144 00
Carrie Russell,	216 00
Miss Palmer,	216 00
	$3039 00

SUPPLIES.

A. W. Proctor,	$ 10 67
American Express Co., Vermont R. R.,	20 99
J. E. Warren,	3 45
Brooms, No. 4,	65
D. C. Heath & Co.,	28 27
Edward E. Babb & Co,	21 95
King, Richardson Co.,	25 92
J. S. Hammett & Co.,	58 23
Ginn & Co.,	60 55
The Morse Co.,	1 24
Emerson & Co.,	11 25
American Book Co.,	8 16
R. J. Kimball,	3 60
H. R. Crowell,	3 84
University Publishing Co.,	10 37
Silver, Burdett & Co.,	15 24
Newcomb Bros.,	3 25
American Express Co., Vermont R. R.,	60
	$288 23

CARE OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

Henry Russell, No. 9,	1 50
Mrs. Johnson, cleaning, No. 3,	75
Frank Piper, " " 6,	2 00
Beatrice McGlaflin, care No. 5,	3 00
Jessie Stone, care No. 3,	3 00
C. R. Pomeroy, care No. 1,	39 00
Carrie Miller, care No. 4,	4 80

Carrie Russel, care No. 9,	3 00
Willie Alexander,	4 20
James Brodwick, Nos. 1 and 2,	10 50
Joe Fisher, No. 5,	75
Maria Coller, cleaning No. 5,	2 00
Chas. Howe, No. 7,	3 00
James M. Ramsey, No. 3,	3 00
Beatrice McGlaflin, No. 6,	4 20
Carrie Russell, No. 9,	3 00
Willie Alexander, No. 2,	5 35
Carrie Miller, No. 4,	4 80
C. R. Pomeroy, No. 1,	34 00
Florence Dresser, No. 6,	6 00
Leo Merrill, No. 7,	4 25
E. S. Corse, cleaning No. 7,	1 00
Edith A. Stevens, No. 6,	1 40
C. R. Pomeroy, No. 1,	12 00
Hiram Johnson, No. 5,	1 00
C. J. Holton, cleaning No. 7,	50
Edith Stevens, No. 5,	1 75
C. R. Pomeroy,	24 00
Leon Hastings, No. 4,	6 00
J. H. Ewers, No. 3,	4 50
Willie Alexander, No. 2,	6 00
Chas. Howe, No. 7,	2 00
Carrie Russell, No. 9,	3 50
	$205 75

REPAIRS.

E. A. Fowler,	$ 12 42
Jones Fisher, No. 5,	2 55
Lombard & O'Keefe,	7 20
M. H. Alkins,	10 47
F. E. Stevens,	14 53
P. P. Hosmer,	5 14
O'Keefe,	4 45
F. S. Stevens,	5 00
Wm. Moore,	1 50
C. A. Reed,	1 25

Henry Russell,	90
C. A. Reed,	4 75
Hiram Johnson,	50
R. M. Snow,	2 82
R. M. Snow,	1 20
C. R. Pomeroy,	40
Chas. O'Keefe,	1 45
Bangor Slate Syndicate,	78 07
Freight on black boards,	9 61
J. E. Warren,	12 16
Pickard & Walker,	92
Frank L. King,	6 25
C. R. Pomeroy,	65
Repairs at No. 4,	24 22
	$208 41

FUEL.

F. W. Doane, coal,	$26 50	
" " "	20 25	
Frank Piper, wood, No. 6,	10 62	
Geo. A. Stearns, wood,	21 00	
F. W. Doane, coal,	39 00	
C. R. Pomeroy, cutting wood,	2 25	
C. I. Holton, cutting wood,	1 50	
F. W. Doane, coal,	9 75	
Geo. A. Stearns, wood, Nos. 1, 9, 3,	25 86	
J. A. Ewers,	1 00	
Willie Alexander, wood,	1 00	
		$158 73

CONVEYANCE.

S. L. Pike,	$73 00	
W. C. Fellows,	44 00	
Mrs. Rufus Phillips,	5 00	
W. H. Browning,	21 00	
		$143 00

EXPENDED ON PREVIOUS YEAR'S ACCOUNT.

Lucy Perry, No. 7,	$ 97 50
Anna Palmer,	45 00
Grace Lindsey, No. 1,	36 00

Lucy L. Brown, No. 6,	60 00	
Edna White, No. 1,	96 00	
Jessie A. Stone, No. 3,	60 00	
Lucy Sanderson,	68 00	
Anna Thompson, No. 2,	85 00	
A. L. Wetherby,	24 00	
Lottie E. Evans, No. 4,	104 00	
Carrie Russell, No. 9,	60 00	
		$735 50
A. W. Proctor, supplies,	$ 1 68	
J. L. Hammett & Co.,	21 50	
Geo. S. Perry,	11 93	
Broom,	25	
Newcomb Bros.,	2 40	
Mrs. N. P. Wood,	2 90	
		$40 66
S. L. Pike, carrying scholars, No. 6,	$9 00	
S. L. Pike, carrying scholars, No. 6,	9 00	
W. H. Browning,	24 50	
Mrs. Phillips, carrying scholars, No. 7,	11 10	
		$53 60
Charlie Howe, care No. 7,	$ 6 50	
Lucy L. Brown, " 6,	3 50	
Jessie A. Stone, " 3,	2 50	
C. R. Pomeroy, " 1,	34 45	
Leon Miller, " 4,	6 50	
Carrie Russell, " 9,	3 00	
Charlie Howe, " 7,	2 50	
James Greenwood, " 7,	1 50	
Willie Alexander, " 2,	3 15	
		$63 60
Lombard & Keefe, repairs,	$ 1 70	
Repairs No. 9,	35	
Repairs No. 2,	25	
Willie Alexander, cutting wood,	3 75	
		$6 05
		$899 41

RECAPITULATION.

Appropriations and receipts,		$5271 40
Paid teachers,	$3039 40	
Fuel,	158 73	
Conveyance,	143 00	
Repairs on buildings,	208 41	
Care of buildings,	205 75	
Text-books and supplies,	288 23	
Superintendent,	259 56	
Expenses current year,	4302 68	
Expended on previous year's account,	899 41	
Balance unexpended appropriation,	69 31	
		$5271 40

L. R. SMITH,
E. S. BARDWELL,
NELLIE M. WOOD. } *School Committee.*

Superintendent's Report.

To the School Committee of Northfield:

The third annual report of the Superintendent of Schools is hereby respectfully submitted.

During the year an earnest effort has been made to bring our schools into complete harmony with the Massachusetts School System, for that system represents the best educational thought of the day.

Massachusetts free normal schools, free text books, plans for skilled supervision and laws for compulsory attendance and the prevention of child labor are looked upon as models by the leading thinkers of other states.

Our State Board of Education, with the hearty endorsement of the most enlightened citizens in all walks of life, is seeking to still farther perfect this system and extend its wise provisions to all parts of the state by the enactment of laws:

1. To make skilled supervision permanent in all public schools.

2. To require that new teachers shall be normal graduates, or have equivalent training.

3. To equalize, as far as possible, the educational advantages of the state by increasing the opportunities of the children in the smaller and poorer towns.

4. To relieve the smaller towns of a large portion of the expense of school support by a tax on the whole wealth of the state, which by the concentration of corporate and great manufacturing enterprises in a few cities now escapes its just share of the burden of taxation.

Northfield can only reap the full benefit of present and prospective legislation by placing herself in entire sympathy with the system. She has much to gain by such a course and nothing to lose. She retains absolute control over the schools of the town. The superintendent paid almost entirely by the stare, cannot spend a cent without the sanction of

the local authorities. He may advise, but he can only execute the wishes of the school committee.

The committee can discharge an inefficient trained teacher or an unacceptable superintendent as readily as elect one. It is the system and not the interests of any man or woman which should be considered. The more the people of Northfield study the system of schools, the more firmly will they believe in it.

In following out this system, I have adopted only those courses of study, text books and principles, methods and devices for teaching upon the soundness of which there is a general agreement among educators. No rash experiments or radical measures have been tried. The safe, conservative and therefore truly progressive policy has in every case been followed. The "consensus of competent opinion" has been the guide in every line of school work, as the following brief outline will clearly show.

ARITHMETIC.

The inductive method is used in every large city and town in the commonwealth. Our text book, Prince's Arithmetic by Grades, which is but a development of that system, is used by more than half the towns of Franklin county and 207 of 353 towns and cities of the state.

The advantages claimed for it over other text books embodying the same principles are the great variety and careful gradation of problems, frequent reviews; the large amount of oral work, by which the pupil's logical powers are developed and the ability to work with large numbers by short processes is cultivated; the introduction of statistics and facts of physics, astronomy, history, geography, etc., thus enabling pupils to gain incidentally much useful information; and the use of drill tables and other devices to save the time of teachers. No candid person can fail to be impressed by the rapid progress which has attended the use of this method here.

GEOGRAPHY.

Frye's Geographies are now being used in all our schools with satisfactory results. These scientific and attractive books are more extensively used in New England than all other works on geography combined.

WRITING.

Two years ago vertical wrrting was looked upon by many as a dangerous innovation. To-day, I challenge a comparison of the average ex-

cellence of the writing in our schools with that of any town in the state. Eighty per cent. of the children of the state are now learning to write the vertical script. There is good reason to believe that its use will soon become almost universal.

LANGUAGE.

Language, including reading, spelling and grammar, is the most important subject taught in our schools. The most approved and generally accepted methods have been followed in each of these lines. I will not outline them here as they have been treated at some length in former reports.

MUSIC.

I am glad to be able to report that the work in music under the efficient direction of Miss Annie H. Palmer, has been of a high order and that the advancement has been continuous and rapid. Good habits of voice production are being established, and the vocal organs of the children are daily growing stronger and more flexible, making the tones purer and more agreeable in singing, reading and conversation.

The pupils are not only learning to read and render music acceptably, but their powers of attention, and quick and accurate thinking are being developed.

School.	Teacher.	Weeks Taught.	No. Enrolled.	Average Membership.	Average Attendance.	Per cent of Attendance.
High.	Grace E. Lindsey, Joseph A. Nolan.	12 24	33	28.4	26.6	94
Grammar.	Edna L. White.	36	33	27.9	26.6	95.3
Primary.	Lucy W. Sanderson.	36	31	22	20.25	92
2.	Anna L. Thompson, Lucy L. Brown, Alice M. Dwight.	12 22 12	33	27	24.3	90
3.	Jessie A. Stone, Jennie M. Ramsey, Josephine M. Briggs.	12 12 9	15	11.5	10.35	90
4.	Lottie E. Evans.	36	32	22.9	20.3	89
5.	Jennie M. Ramsey, Jeannette B. Fuller.	12 16	17	13.6	13.05	95
6.	Beatrice B. McClauflin, Edith A. Stevens.	24 9	19	10.7	9.43	88
7.	Joseph A. Nolan, Margaret A. Whitty.	12 24	29	22	20.2	92
9.	Carrie R. Russell.	36	18	13.89	13.44	97

ROLL OF HONOR.

The following are the names of those who have been neither absent or tardy. The figure at the right of the name indicates the number of terms.

No. 1.

Clifford Lyman, 2
David Dale, 2
Edith Stevens, 1
Elinor O'Keefe, 1
Ernest Warren, 1
Jennie Crelan, 1
Katherine O'Keefe, 1
Kate Lamson, 3
Madeline Beaman, 3
Mary Dale, 2
Margaret Harte, 1
Raymond Mason, 1
Theo. Lyman, 2
Winnie Simonds, 2
Willie Dale, 1

No. 2.

Minnie E. Lyman, 1

No. 3.

Ethel Field, 1
Jesse Holton.
Everett Kenfield, 1

No. 4.

Lucy B. Browning, 3
Alice C. Nash, 1
Elsie M. Banks, 1
Bessie L. Hammond, 1
Florence Park, 1
James S. Browning, 3
Henry Holton, 1
Murry Hammond, 2
Henry Hammond, 1
Raymond Hastings, 1
Don H. Sprague, 1

No. 5.

Edna Finney, 1
Agnes Fisher, 1
Bernard Fisher, 2
Bertha Dresser, 1
Winnie Dresser, 1
Ernest Johnson, 1
Gertrude Johnson, 1
Leo Johnson, 1

No. 6.

Louis Nelon, 2

No. 9.

Eva Hatstat, 2
Bearl Stearns, 2
Effie Stearns, 2
Amy Dresser, 2
Ethel Dresser, 2
E. Myrtle Dresser, 1
Harold Randall, 1
Allen Putnam, 1

CONCLUSION.

I would urge parents and all friends of popular education to visit the schools and learn of their merits by personal observation. I wish to thank the School Committee for their kindness, unfailing courtesy and generous support in my work. I should show myself lacking in appreciation did I not also express my gratitude to the teachers who have faithfully and loyally labored with me, and to the parents and citizens for their encouragement and fidelity to the interests of the schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. E. Warren.

Report of Trustees of Public Library.

In presenting their annual report, the Library Trustees are very glad to be able to say something besides a bare statement of receipts and expenditures. During the past year, Mr. E. M. Dickinson, a native of Northfield, but a resident of Fitchburg, has again evinced his love for and interest in his native town by building and presenting to it a magnificent and well appointed library building to be known as the "Dickinson Memorial Library."

This building provides not only for a stack room for books, but also a public reading room, a reference room, where one may quietly investigate any subject by means of library books, an art room and a room for relics. It is doubtful if any town in New England of 5,000 inhabitants or less has as fine a library building or one as well adapted for its purpose.

Owing to unexpected delays on the part of some manufacturers, the furnishing of the building is not yet completed, but will be in a few weeks. Hence, the trustees are not ready to report as to the expenditure of the two thousand dollars appropriated for this purpose. We believe it will be the policy of the town to make the library and reading room of the greatest possible value to all who may avail themselves of its privileges and also to increase the number who shall do this. In 1890 an act was passed by the legislature establishing a "Free Public Library Commission." When this commission was organized one hundred and five towns in the state were without a free public library. By the efforts of this commission the number of such towns is now reduced to about twenty. The following is quoted from the commission's report of 1896: "With a treasure house of books in nearly every town, the problem of distribution, of bringing the library within easy reach of every family, is one that naturally engages much attention. The disposition to establish branches for the benefit of outlying sections of a town is an evidence at

once of a growing demand for methods of wider and more general distribution, and of a readiness to adopt the most practicable means to meet the demand. The intimate relation of the public library to the public school, and the special advantages and privileges which the libraries give to teachers and scholars; the tendency to make the library and reading room homelike and cheerful; the anxiety of librarians to lead people to read books that are useful as well as entertaining, and to study the special needs of the community; and the large number of people of wealth who donate funds for the purchase of books or to provide library buildings, – are among the indications of the development of the free public library as a public necessity and a public blessing."

Such conclusions from a source so competent to reach them, after a careful survey and study of the problem ought materially to help us in making the best use of provisions so generously bestowed.

We believe that our public library and reading room should be open two or three days each week, from about two to half past five o'clock, and from half past six to nine o'clock, P. M. This, with a constant and active interest manifested by *all* the citizens, will be sure to make our library a prominent factor in our intellectual, social and moral advancement. With all this in view, your trustees recommend an appropriation of not less than $550 for the public library. They further recommend that the board of trustees be increased to six members.

TRUSTEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARY IN ACCOUNT WITH THE TOWN OF NORTHFIELD.

DR.

To cash on hand per last report,		$19 32
appropriations by the town,		200 00
cash received from librarian,		6 57
		$225 89

CR.

1897.		
May 5.	paid for Lives of Eminent Men,	$ 1 50
29.	" express on Atlas,	35
June 1.	Houghton, Mifflin & Co.,	22 00
8.	Estes & Lauriat for Atlas,	10 00
8	library bureau,	2 00
14	DeWolf, Fiske & Co., for books,	70 57
15	express on books,	85
July 1	express on catalogues,	15
5	Printing catalogues	3 16
5	postage,	16

1898.		
Feb. 11	librarian's salary,	65 00
		$175 74

Feb. 15, balance in hands of trustees, $50.15.

N. P. WOOD,
GEO. F. PIFER,
H. W. RANKIN,
Trustees.

Library Report.

For the Year Ending Feb. 5, 1898.

Number of volumes in library last report,		4,152
Number of volumes purchased past year,		88
Number of volumes presented past year,		25
Total,		4,265
Number of families patrons of library,	169	
Number of visitors patrons of library,	7	
Number of volumes taken by families,		3,825
Number of volumes taken by public schools,		205
Number of volumes taken by visitors,		16
Total,		4,046
Amount of fines collected,	$8 08	
Amount of fees from visitors,	80	
Total,		$8 88
Amount paid for incidentals,		$2 31
Balance,		$6 57
Uncollected fines,		$1 84

MRS. F. J. STOCKBRIDGE,
Librarian.

Fire Engineers' Report.

The Northfield Hook and Ladder company was organized April 12th, 1897, with a volunteer membership of 25.

The members have worked faithfully throughout the whole time the company has been organized to obtain the necessary equipments, and now have a truck with ladders, pails, axes, pike-poles, chains, ropes, hook and other necessary paraphernalia.

By personal effort of the members, by entertainments and other means all this has been paid for, except about $40.

Article VII of the constitution of the company reads as follows:

"In case of the disbanding of the company, the apparatus, and all paraphernalia shall be considered as the property of the town, and delivered to the selectmen."

The company now ask the town to assist a worthy cause, and raise and appropriate the sum of $40, to pay this indebtedness.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES W. BLACK,

Chief Engineer.

Northfield, Mass., February 15, 1898.